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heat of the kiln will blend the brush strokes sufficiently and the effect will be found very pleasing for some purposes. If this method be adopted the design should first be put on and the background worked around it to avoid the unnecessary labor of afterwards scraping the color out.

With regard to the flat tinted dark grounds, the process is much more difficult for unskilled hands to accomplish than any yet described. The color used must be in a powdered state to allow of its being dusted on to a properly prepared surface. To prepare the surface add a little turpentine to some grounding oil; apply this mixture to the china with a broad flat brush exactly as directed when using color, and with a dabber pounce the oil thus laid until quite even and slightly tacky. Then take a clean dabber or a thick dry blending brush and dipping it into the powdered color from time to time dust the powder thoroughly all over the oiled parts until the oil will absorb no more. Then brush the superfluous color off lightly with a dry brush. This work requires a very light hand and some practise to accomplish it successfully. It is likewise difficult to judge of final results before the firing which renders the color transparent and brings to light unsespected blemishes. I would advise my pupils to avoid discouragement by attempting only light grounds for some length of time. Very excellent practise for acquiring a good free touch is offered in the sheet of foliage studies by Raguenet on page 179 in the September number of the DECORATOR AND FURNISHER, even if only painted on a spare tile in monochrome and rubbed out again.

HOW TO TAKE CARE OF A WATCH.

BY ALBERT HOLLAND.

GENERALLY speaking the understanding of the public as to what should reasonably be expected from a watch and how it is to be treated is very limited. A little instruction in this regard may benefit the people as well as protect watchmakers from undeserved censure. A watch must be well treated if it is required to perform well its duty. Nobody neglects a large engine or any kind of extended and complicated machinery. The utmost care is taken to observe its working day and night, and it is no more than natural to believe that a watch, containing the smallest and most complicated mechanism, demands extraordinary attention, care and protection, as well as large machinery.

A watch, even if of very good quality, can only give satisfaction if it is treated according to its subtle construction. Its possessor must prevent it from falling or being knocked about. A jump from a street car has more than once caused a good time-piece in the jumper's pocket to change its rate A watch must be kept clean and in a clean place. Dust and small particles of the pocket lining gather continuously in the pockets, and even the best fitting case cannot protect the movement from dirt finding its way to the wheels and pivots of the movement. Watch pockets should be turned inside out and cleaned at regular intervals.

A watch ought to be wound regularly at about the same hour every day. The best time to do it is in the morning, for two reasons. Firstly, because the hour of rising and dressing are more regular with most people than their hours of disrobing and retiring. Secondly, because the full power of the mainspring is more likely to reduce to a minimum the irregularities caused by the movements of the owner during the day.

When not carried in the pocket a watch should always hang by its ring in the same position as it is worn. As a rule watches will run with a different rate when laid down. Only high grade watches are adjusted to positions and will show only a few seconds difference in twenty-four hours, while common watches may be out several minutes in one night.

Ladies often complain that their watches do not run regularly. This may be on account of smaller size and more difficult regulating, but the main reason for the faulty rate is to be found in the fact that ladies do not always carry their watches and consequently often forget to wind them.

Never leave a hunting case watch open during a considerable length of time. A careful observer will find in the morning a layer of dust on the crystal of a watch that has been open during the night. That dust will find its way into the movement. The dust on the outside of the case will be unconsciously rubbed off by the wearer, but when the watch is closed the dust inside of the case must remain there.

Mainsprings cannot be prevented from breaking. Like china they are made to go to pieces. But breakage will occur less frequently if the watch is wound carefully. Do not take it from your warm pocket and hang it against the cold wall. Protect it from direct contact with the cold object by an ornamental piece of cloth, plush or velvet being preferable.

The regular running or rate of a watch depends entirely upon its construction and lower or higher grade of perfection and finish. It is useless to worry oneself about the irregularities of a watch of ordinary quality. Watch movements of low or even middle prices cannot be expected to have a steady and regular rate. They may run fairly well for every day use, but nobody should require them to be absolutely correct. No absolutely correct timepiece has yet been made. The best ones, used in observatories and for naval purposes, are subject to changes. In order to have foundations for their calculations, astronomers and navigators have regular tables registering those changes, as nearly as possible. Temperature, weight of the air, moisture of the atmosphere, electric currents, and other influences affect the rate of all watches, regulators, chronometers or whatever the name of a timepiece may be. These influences cannot be foreseen or controlled by the adjuster. The best chronometers keep those influences within the smallest known limits. Each skillful and sensible watchmaker is able to regulate a watch to such a degree of accuracy as its construction will allow; but is impossible for a watchmaker to deliver a new watch regulated to suit the customer. The rate of a watch will change from the moment it is carried. Although it has been correct on the rack, the watch when delivered to its purchaser changes its rate. It will run fast or slow; the watchmaker cannot foretell which way, it will vary.

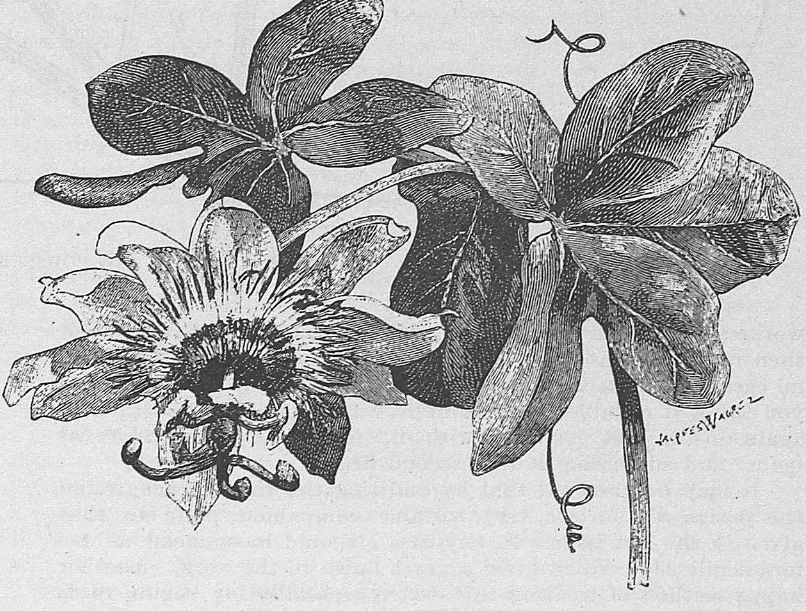
It is an injustice to condemn a watchmaker because you have to run to him four or five times before your watch is all right. Only those who do not understand anything about a watch will mentally curse the watchmaker and call him a blockhead because he did not succeed in regulating a watch that will be influenced by unknown forces.

A watch ought to be cleaned every two, or at the utmost every three, years, if it is not to be spoiled. The oil will change. It will become thickened by the dust that cannot be kept out of the best closing case. The dust will work like emery and grind the surfaces of the pivots of the train. The best of movements will be spoiled if this requirement is neglected. Even after being cleaned out and put in order, they will not recover their former exactness. Many times it has been observed that a watch ran well for years and that it was unreliable after having been cleaned. The reason is to be found in the fact that the pivots and their thick oil fit the jewel holes, and the cleaned pivots and the clean oil do not fit the same jewels.

It is almost an individual matter to decide how often a watch ought to be cleaned. The case has a good deal to do with it. The more nearly dust-proof it is, the better. The profession and surroundings of the wearer are not to be overlooked. It is easily understood that a blacksmith or cabinet maker must have his watch cleaned oftener than a minister or a clerk.

Anybody who has the misfortune to drop his watch in the water will find it to his advantage to put it immediately in pure alcohol (not whiskey or gin) and to leave it there until the watchmaker can take it apart and put it in order. Of course, delay is not advisable in such cases.

THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER for September contains several additional chapters of Prof. Henri Mayeux's admirable series of articles on "Decorative Composition," papers on "Chances for Women as Artists," "Floral Forms Decoratively Applied," directions as to home workshops, how to regild chairs, marbling, wall paper hangings, and many other kindred matters. It is, as usual, sumptuously Illustrated.—*Brooklyn Standard-Union*



FLORAL PANEL, BY JACQUES WAGREZ.